

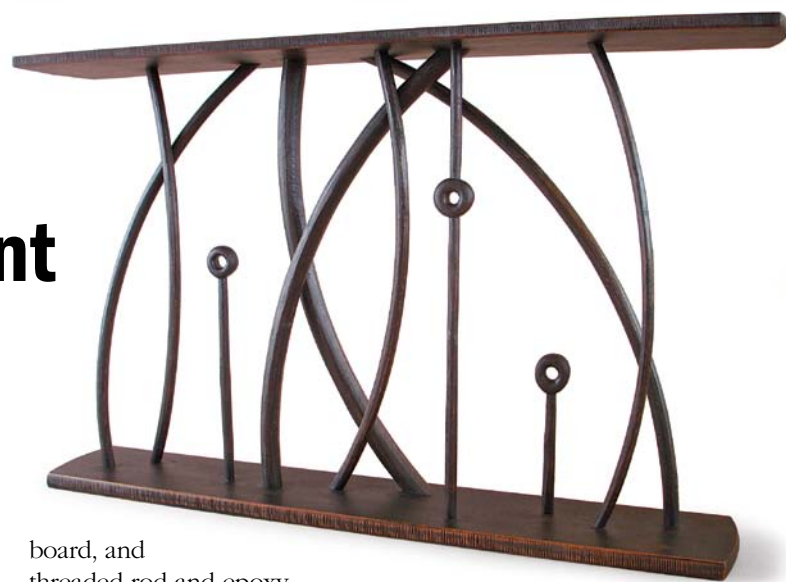
how they did it

Expressive but efficient

BY JONATHAN BINZEN

Dean Pulver's tables (see the back cover) may be idiosyncratic, but they are efficient to make, and he's made dozens of them to the same design. All the stem-like curved parts are bent laminations clamped up on the same form. By angling them differently in the table and twisting them, he achieves the impression of arcs in a variety of radii. Despite all the odd angles, the assembly is relatively straightforward. Pulver uses screws and epoxy to secure the vertical pieces to the bottom

board, and threaded rod and epoxy to join them to the top. After assembly, he colors the table with aniline dye, then sands the finish back so the warmth of the wood shows through in the high spots.



1. PRODUCE THE PARTS



The curved elements are bent laminations made with 3/4-in.-thick solid-wood plies clamped on a particleboard form. The lollipop-shaped elements are laid out on a plank and bandsawn to shape.

2. ROUNDING WITH THE ROUTER



All the vertical elements get shaped with a roundover bit in either a handheld router or on a router table. Before routing the bent-laminated pieces, Pulver uses a power plane to flatten the surface and roughly round the corners on the convex side.



3. ADD TEXTURE



Pulver uses spokeshaves, rasps, and files to refine the shapes and to add the texture that gives his pieces their tactile appeal.



4. CROSSCUTS PERFECTLY IN LINE



For crosscutting, a plywood jig festooned with clamping blocks holds the vertical elements exactly as they'll be in the table. A 4-in.-wide spacer against the fence permits uncut ends to overhang the jig.